

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 22-35 are pending in this application. Please cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 22-35 as follows:

1– 21. (Canceled).

22. (New) A control system for integrating legacy devices with modern control devices, comprising:

at least one legacy device that generates discrete output signals;

at least one legacy controller operatively connected to receive the discrete output signals therefrom and to output control signals to the at least one legacy device;

an integrated signal conditioning circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy device and the at least one legacy controller so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween; and

a master controller operatively connected to control operation of the integrated signal conditioning circuit so as to control the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therethrough, and to control operation of the at least one legacy controller.

23. (New) A control system according to claim 22, further comprising:

at least one I/O circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy device and the at least one legacy controller so as to process the output signals and control signals communicated therebetween.

24. (New) A control system according to claim 22, wherein the integrated signal conditioning circuit is formed to, in response to the master controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the at least one legacy device to the at least one legacy controller and pass-through or override the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy device.

25. (New) A control system according to claim 22, further comprising:

a plurality of legacy devices each generating discrete output signals;

a plurality of legacy controllers each operatively connected to receive the discrete output signals from and to output control signals to a corresponding one of the plurality of legacy devices; and

a plurality of an integrated signal conditioning circuits operatively connected between corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy devices and legacy controllers so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween.

26. (New) A method for controlling a system that integrates legacy devices with modern control devices, comprising the steps of:

generating discrete output signals from at least one legacy device;

generating control signals from at least one legacy controller in response to the output signals from the at least one legacy device;

conditioning at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated between the at least one legacy device and at least one legacy controller; and

controlling via a master controller an operation of the at least one legacy controller and the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals.

27. (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

processing the output signals and control signals communicated between the at least one legacy device and the at least one legacy controller so as to convert the output signals and control signals and thereby allow communication between the at least one legacy device and the at least one legacy controller.

28. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the step of conditioning at least one of the output signals and control signals includes, in response to controlling by the master controller, at least one of monitoring or interrupting the output signals from the at least one legacy device to the at least one legacy controller and passing-through or overriding the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy device.

29. (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the steps of:
- generating discrete output signals from a plurality of legacy devices;
 - generating control signals from a plurality of legacy controllers in response to the output signals from corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy devices; and
 - conditioning the output signals and control signals being communicated between the plurality of legacy devices and legacy controllers; and
 - controlling via the master controller operation of the plurality of legacy controllers and the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals.
30. (New) A mail sorting system that integrates legacy devices with modern control devices, comprising:
- at least one legacy device that generates discrete sensor output signals;
 - at least one legacy controller operatively connected to receive the discrete sensor output signals therefrom and to output control signals in response thereto;
 - an integrated signal conditioning circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy device and the at least one legacy controller so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween; and
 - a master controller operatively connected to control operation of the integrated signal conditioning circuit so as to control the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therethrough, and to control operation of the at least one legacy controller.
31. (New) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, further comprising:
- at least one I/O circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy device and the at least one legacy controller so as to process the output signals and control signals communicated therebetween.
32. (New) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, wherein the integrated signal conditioning circuit is formed to, in response to the master controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the at least one legacy device to the at least one legacy controller and pass-through or override the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy device.

33. (New) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, further comprising:
- a plurality of legacy devices each generating discrete output signals;
 - a plurality of legacy controllers each operatively connected to receive the discrete output signals from and to output control signals to at least one corresponding one of the plurality of legacy devices; and
 - a plurality of an integrated signal conditioning circuits operatively connected between corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy devices and legacy controllers so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween.
34. (New) A mail sorting system according to claim 33, further comprising:
- A plurality of legacy mail handling devices, wherein the plurality of legacy devices that generate the discrete output signals include a plurality of sensor devices, and
 - the plurality of legacy controllers are each operatively connected to receive the discrete output signals from corresponding ones of the plurality of sensor devices and to output control signals to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy mail handling devices.
35. (New) A mail sorting system according to claim 34, wherein the plurality of integrated signal conditioning circuits are each formed to, in response to the master controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the plurality of sensor devices to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy controllers and pass-through or override the control signals from the plurality of legacy controller to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy mail handling devices.